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THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 05 www.associatednewspapers.net

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 136, No. 05

A heated exchange at the Jan. 26 meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees has apparently resulted in the resignation of Deputy Supervisor Kenneth Bednark.

See page 3.

THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 74, No. 05

Sidewalk repairs are on tap in Canton Township this year for Glengarry North Estate, Glengarry Village 1-6, and Glengarry Woods subdivisions.

See page 2.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 74, No. 05

Members of The Prevailing Church in Inkster are constructing a memorial brick walkway along the side of the church in memory of those lost to the COVID-19 virus.

See page 6.

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
Vol. 210, No. 05

Police officers in Northville Township and the City of Northville have completed courses to ensure an effective response to situations involving mental health issues.

See page 4.

THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
Vol. 21, No. 05

Plymouth Township officials recently issued a reminder to residents that clearing snow from roads is the job of Wayne County.

See page 2.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN
Vol. 136, No. 05

Community members who have experienced the death of a family member or friend can register for a 13-week seminar/support group in Romulus.

See page 6.

THE WAYNE EAGLE
Vol. 74, No. 05

Cost-free testing for COVID-19, with reportedly shorter waiting times, is open at the HYPE Recreation Center Monday through Saturday.

See page 6.

THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 74, No. 05

Members of the Westland City Council confirmed the reappointment of two city board members during a Jan. 19 meeting.

See page 5.

City manager sues former council member

Wayne City Manager Lisa Nocerini has filed a civil suit demanding damages in excess of $25,000 as compensation for alleged actions of Christopher Sanders during his tenure on the Wayne City Council.

The suit alleges the damages were incurred during Sanders' term on the council from November 2015 until a recall election in May 2018. That designation could, according to attorneys representing Sanders, place financial responsibility for defending the claim and the obligation for any financial damages which could be awarded, on the cash-strapped city.

In the suit, Nocerini claims that Sanders, 52, and Wayne resident Jimmie Lee Chandler conspired and made a false report of a felony to the Wayne Police Department after stealing her keys and planting a starter pistol and drug paraphernalia in her car on Oct. 16, 2017.

> *She further claims that Sanders interfered with her "existing and prospective economic and business relationships and expectancies"...*

She claims that Sanders paid Chandler $500 to conspire against her by planting the items and then reporting the crimes to the police. Chandler did make such a report but Nocerini was never stopped by police and alleges she found the items in her car two days later on Oct. 18, 2017. She claims she contacted law enforcement and the investigation was referred to the Michigan State Police. State investigators closed the case in June of 2018 with no charges filed. Nocerini subsequently retained legal counsel and hired a private investigator that month in a successful effort to have the investigation reopened by state police.

Chandler was arrested on an unconnected warrant and during a subsequent police interview implicated Sanders in the Nocerini investigation, claiming Sanders paid him to plant the items in Nocerini's car two years before. Both Sanders and Chandler were criminally charged on June 16, 2020 with conspiracy to file a false felony report, filing a false felony report and attempting to file a false felony report. Chandler entered a guilty plea on reduced charges and was sentenced last week to 18 months probation.

The Nocerini civil lawsuit against Sanders was filed on Oct. 15, 2020.

Sanders' legal counsel on the criminal charge, John Cahalan, has requested the city notify him of the attorney who will, at city expense, defend the civil lawsuit. Cahalan said that should Nocerini be successful in the suit, the city could be liable for any monetary damages awarded. He added that the city attorney has not responded to his phone calls or letters requesting the name of the attorney who will represent

See **Lawsuit** , page 6

Northville community mourns death of Chip Snider

Flags throughout Northville Township were lowered to half staff last week as an official tribute to former longtime Northville Township Manager Marvin "Chip" Snider, Ph.D., who died Jan. 27.

Mr. Snider, 70, who forever changed the Northville community, is being mourned throughout the area as one of the most influential leaders in the township. He retired in October, 2019 after serving the community for more than 29 years, 19 of those as the chief administrative officer of the township.

"He was a great colleague, a great leader and a great friend," said Northville Township Supervisor Mark J. Abbo.

Mr. Snider led the township through a decade of unprecedented growth, officials said. During his tenure, the township population increased from 17,000 in 1990 to 28,500 in 2010, a situation which called for careful management and planning, which Mr. Snider successfully achieved as he prepared the community for continued growth.

Mr. Snider, a former U.S. Marine, redefined the concept of Servant Leadership by encouraging open dialogue and participation among residents, business leaders, community groups and organizations, providing a strong foundation for township management, according to those who worked with him.

Mr. Snider's career included 41 years of municipal public safety service, 18 of those years as chief of police and public safety director. He began his career as a police officer in Milan and Farmington Hills and joined Northville Township as police chief in 1990. He served in law enforcement in two cities, one village and two townships in Southeastern Michigan. In August 1993, after three years with the township, he restructured the police and fire departments to a nominally-consolidated Public Safety Department. This effort centralized budget development, increased coordination of public safety planning, and optimized knowledge and skills of public safety personnel, according to a prepared statement from the township.

> *His love for this community, this country, make this proclamation a fitting tribute to this man who meant so much to so many.*

Township officials said that Mr. Snider's legacy includes his innate ability to teach. He was a mentor to many, and his influence has made an indelible impact on generations of professionals at Northville Township, co-workers noted.

Mr. Snider handpicked his successor, Todd L. Mutchler, who holds the dual role of township manager and director of public safety.

"Chip modeled Servant Leadership; when you brought an issue to him, he listened, he encouraged, and he supported you," Mutchler said. "He genuinely cared for and respected his team. He embraced his role as my mentor and friend which I will always cherish."

Mr. Snider earned a doctoral degree in clinical psychology and a master's degree in public administration. He was also a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

"A valued member of the Northville Township family was lost today," said Abbo. "Chip's contributions will live on and he will truly be missed." In an official township proclamation lowering the flags to half mast in honor of Mr. Snider, Abbo said, "He was a terrific public servant, right down to his days serving in Vietnam as a U.S. Marine. His love for this community, this country, make this proclamation a fitting tribute to this man who meant so much to so many."

Marvin "Chip" Snider

Mr. Snider, a Canton Township resident, is survived by his wife, Diana , and children Derek (Traci) and Devon, and seven grandchildren. A memorial service will be planned when pandemic restrictions allow. Arrangements were entrusted to the Griffin Funeral Home.

Union leader questions district student return plan

While teachers in the Plymouth-Canton Schools are eager to return to their classrooms for in-person learning, they are concerned about their safety and the safety of students in light of the current coronavirus pandemic.

Plymouth-Canton Education Association President Heather Fitchpatrick sent a statement to members of the board of education earlier this month, noting that the 1,100 members of the teachers' union feared that the district might be rushing to a full return "without specific details that keep our teachers and students safe."

Fitchpatrick's statement was read to the board members and audience during the virtual meeting by board member Lauren Christenson. Currently, the district plans to return to full-time, in-person learning by March 1.

> *By rushing to a full return, vital details may be overlooked. Mistakes could cause people to get sick or worse.*

Fitchpatrick questioned the details of the current plan and inquired about provisions for accommodating student lunch breaks and physical distancing during the day. She inquired about plexiglass barriers in classrooms and suggested plans needed to be in place for special education students and for quarantined students.

"Details matter. We need clear and consistent communication with all of our staff. Teachers by nature are planners. We pour our hearts and souls into our lessons and activities. We need time to do this effectively. By rushing to a full return, vital details may be overlooked. Mistakes could cause people to get sick or worse," her prepared statement read.

The current plan for in-person learning will include grades 6 through 9 and students in specialized courses at the high school returning to in-person in a hybrid configuration beginning Jan. 25; all elementary students, and students in grades 6 through 9 and those in specialized-courses will return to a full five-day, in-person configuration Feb. 17-19.

Students in grades 7 and 8 are scheduled to return to a five-day in-person configuration on Feb. 22 and students in grades 10-12 will return to in-person learning (either in a hybrid model or full five-day configuration) March 1.

According to Superintendent of Schools Monica Merritt, air purifiers have been installed in district buildings along with improved ventilation systems. She added that cleaning methods in district buildings have also been intensified in an effort to combat the spread of the virus in school buildings.

Canton - Plymouth

Trustees OK township sidewalk repair projects

Julie Brown
Special Writer

Sidewalk repairs are on tap in Canton Township this year for Glengarry North Estate, Glengarry Village 1-6, and Glengarry Woods subdivisions.

"We were in there with an extensive water main program," noted Bill Serchak of the township engineering department at a Jan. 26 Canton Board of Trustees meeting. He said work in that area is planned to avoid conflicts with roadwork in 2021.

The subdivsions are near Cherry Hill and Canton Center roads.

Township Director of Municipal Services Jade Smith noted that a Michigan Supreme Court 1997 case that Canton lost refers to sidewalk liability issues. Now, it takes Canton officials 12 years to cycle through all needed sidewalk repairs, Smith added.

A red dot on a sidewalk panel makes it is the responsibility of the township while a green dot means the homeowner is responsible for paying for the repair.

Smith showed photos of cracked sidewalks in need of repair, including those with ponding and those with lift hazards from tree roots.

The township bears the cost of making sidewalks compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act, Smith noted.

Residents and business property owners receive a letter informing them of repairs, with contact information at the Township Administration Building, including direct phone numbers.

Smith said the Zone 5 area should begin after April 1, and Zone 6 after June, with a likely public hearing March 9 for Zone 6.

In introducing co-worker Erika Hidalgo, Smith said, "She is the face of the program with our residents and businesses," to answer their questions and concerns."

"It would be good if there was an app where people could report issues" with sidewalks, commented Trustee Steven Sneideman.

> *Residents and business property owners receive a letter informing them of repairs, with contact information at the Township Administration Building.*

Smith agreed noting that it was "a great idea," adding that it would have costs.

Trustees voted unanimously to move forward with the repairs, and also appointed three people, S. Ifran Jafry, Paris Phou and Ethan Petzold, to the Tax Board of Review. Members of that board hear property assessment appeals, with terms expiring March 31, 2023.

"We had a lot of good people submit applications," said Trustee Sommer Foster while township Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak said, "It was a good process and they were good interviews."

In other business, Canton resident James Moon-Dupree was unanimously appointed to the merit commission to succeed Richard Keenan, who resigned. Moon-Dupree will serve through Dec. 31, 2024, on the commission whose work includes employee hiring and advancement, job classification, and discipline.

The board members also unanimously reappointed Samar Sakakino and Elena Semenov to the Commission for Culture, Arts & Heritage, through Dec. 31, 2023. That commission still has several vacancies to fill, said Director of Leisure Services Greg Hohenberger, who said he welcomes applications.

Township officials that evening also entered an intergovernmental agreement with Wayne County for some $137,500 of improvements to Heritage Park through the county parks millage.

Hohenberger noted those will include a sunscreen dispenser as well as a fountain to fill water bottles by the splash pad. That work will take place in fiscal year 2021.

Warm welcome

Three new firefighter/paramedics were officially sworn in as members of the Canton Township Public Safety Department Jan. 26. Canton Fire Chief Chris Stoecklein, left, welcomed Martin Smith, Jeremy Martzolff and Colin Murphy. Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak congratulated the new first responders .

Plymouth reminds residents clearing roads is county job

Plymouth Township officials recently issued a reminder to residents regarding snow emergencies in the township.

Officials noted that the township can probably expect several heavy snow days this winter like those earlier this week which can make both driving and walking a challenge. Plymouth Township is not responsible for the plowing or clearing of streets, officials said, that work is the responsibility of Wayne County Roads or the local homeowner's association usually through a private contractor.

The Plymouth Township Department of Public Service salts sidewalks and pathways on township-owned property only, and local homeowners are responsible for snow removal from local subdivision or residential streets through private contracts.

Residents and businesses must remove snow and ice from adjacent sidewalks within 24 hours of a snow or ice event or be subject to an ordinance violation, officials said. While Plymouth Township does not issue "Snow Emergencies," officials expect that when such a situation is determined to be in effect, residents will move vehicles off the street so that Wayne County snow plows can clear the roads.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton held on January 26, 2021, the Board of Trustees adopted an amendment to the Zoning Map of the Zoning Ordinance (Article 8.00 of Appendix A - Zoning, of the Code of Ordinances of the Charter Township of Canton) to rezone parcel nos. 71-127-99-0020-000, 71-127-99-0019-000, 71-127-99-0018-002, 71-127-99-0017-000, 71-127-99-0016-000, and 71-127-99-009-000 (east 896 feet only) (located on the north side of Michigan Ave., east of Denton Rd.) to LI-R, Light Industrial Research from R-3, R-1, and RR.

This amendment to the Zoning Map of the Zoning Ordinance shall take effect upon the expiration of seven (7) days after its publication date. Copies of the amendment may be viewed or obtained at the Canton Township Administration Building, Office of the Township Clerk, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, MI 48188 during regular business hours.

Publish: February 4, 2021
Effective Date: February 12, 2021

CN2168 - 020421 2.5 x 1.834

30 Day Comment Period Notice and
Notice of Public Hearing
Charter Township of Canton, Michigan
Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Passport
Grant Application for Victory Park Revitalization Project

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Canton will be holding a virtual Zoom **Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 6:00 P.M.** to receive public input on its Victory Park Revitalization Project application to the Recreation Passport Grant offered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. All individuals who currently reside in Canton Township, or who utilize Victory Park, are encouraged to attend by accessing the Zoom meeting at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81113946614 and will be offered an opportunity at said hearing to voice any comments they may have regarding the Victory Park Revitalization Project.

The Charter Township of Canton is pursuing additional funding support to improve amenities at Victory Park, located at 46555 Michigan Avenue, Canton, MI 48188. The grant application will include improvements of accessible playground amenities, sand volleyball, athletic warm-up space, dugout improvements, and environmental sustainability features. This Public Hearing is being held to receive public input for application to the Recreation Passport Grant offered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources aimed toward recreational amenity improvements at Victory Park.

A 30-day comment period remains in effect until March 9, 2021. Participants may provide input prior to the hearing date by submitting comments to leisure@canton-mi.org or by calling Deputy Director Jon LaFever at 734/394-5360.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with disabilities who require special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services to attend/participate at the meeting/hearing should contact Kerreen Conley, Human Resources Manager, at 734-394-5260. Reasonable accommodations can be made with advance notice. A complete copy of the Access to Public Meetings Policy is available at www.canton-mi.org

Publish: February 4, 2021

CN2169 - 020421 2.5 x 3.32

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon notice to the Charter Township of Canton.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Charter Township of Canton will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title II of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The Charter Township of Canton will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Charter Township of Canton's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The Charter Township of Canton will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in the Charter Township of Canton's offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton should contact the office of Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Charter Township of Canton to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260.

The Charter Township of Canton will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

Publish: 02/04/21

CN2167 - 020421 2.5 x 4.72

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 11, 2021
Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Rd, Romulus, MI 48174
MEETING HELD ELECTRONICALLY VIA
ZOOM MEETING/TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Pledge of Allegiance Led by Councilperson Abdo
Roll Call

Present: Kathy Abdo, John Barden, Celeste Roscoe, Tina Talley, Eva Webb, Virginia Williams
Absent / Excused: William Wadsworth
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
LeRoy Burcroff, Mayor
Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk
Stacy Paige, Treasurer
Administrative Staff in Attendance:
D'Sjonaun Hockenhull - Deputy Clerk; Julie Wojtylko - Chief of Staff; Stephen Hitchcock - City Attorney; Tanya Cofield - Recreations Coordinator; Carol Maise - City Planner; Robert McCraight - Director of Public Services & Economic Development; Gary Harris - Purchasing Director; Mike Laskaska - Director of Communication & Community Services; Stephen Dudek - Director of Technology Services

1. **Agenda**
   - A. Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Eva Webb** to accept the agenda as presented. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
2. **Minutes**
   - A. **Res. #21-006** Moved by **Kathy Abdo,** seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on January 4, 2021 at 7:30p.m. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
   - B. **Res. #21-007** Moved by **Kathy Abdo,** seconded by **Celeste Roscoe** to approve the minutes from the special meeting held on January 4, 2021 at 6:00p.m. to discuss the Midyear Court Presentation. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
3. **Petitioner**
   - A. **Res. #21-008** Moved by **Eva Webb,** seconded by **Virginia Williams** to approve the petition of Rev. Arthur Willis for the MLK Day Celebration and road closures for the march and car processional from 4th Street (Community Baptist Church) to 35625 Vinewood St. (Pentecostal Baptist Church). The road closures include South-4th St.; West - Beverly St.; South - Washington St.; West - Vinewood St. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
4. **Chairperson's Report, John Barden, Mayor Pro-Tem**
   - A. Moved by **Celeste Roscoe,** seconded by **Tina Talley** to accept the Chairperson's Report. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
5. **Mayor's Report - LeRoy D. Burcroff, Mayor**
   - A. **Res. #21-009** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe,** seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve a resolution com memorating the birthday of Sheldon Chandler. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
     Res. #21-010 Moved by **Tina Talley,** seconded by **Eva Webb** to concur with administration and grant authorization for the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the attached lease-purchase agreement with Comerica Leasing for the lease-purchase of a 2021 Freightliner 108SD Dump Chassis in the amount of $87,622.00 at a fixed interest rate of 2.18% for five years with the first payment to be made on or about January 15, 2022. The City would own the vehicle at the term of the lease. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
6. **Clerk's Report - Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk**
   - A. Recreation Coordinator, Tanya Cofield, presented a PowerPoint on the Recreation Master Plan. **Res. #21-011** Moved by **Kathy Abdo,** seconded by **Celeste Roscoe** to approve for Introduction and First reading of the 2021-2025 City of Romulus Recreation Master Plan. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
7. **Treasurer's Report - Stacy Paige, Treasurer -** No action items. See Clerk's Office for complete copy of minutes
8. **Public Comment -** A member of the public requested to speak. See Clerk's Office for complete copy of minutes.
9. **Unfinished Business -** No unfinished business at this meeting.
10. **New Business -** No new business at this meeting.
11. **Warrant**
    - A. **Res. #21-012** Moved by **Kathy Abdo,** seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve Warrant #: 21-1 Checks presented in the amount of $809,327.15. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
12. **Communication -** No action items. See Clerk's Office for complete copy of minutes.
13. **Adjournment**

    Moved by **Kathy Abdo,** seconded by **Eva Webb** to adjourn the meeting at 8:22pm. **Motion Carried Unanimously**

I, Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on January 11, 2021.

Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

RM0551 - 020421 2.5 x 9.723

SUMPTER

Deputy supervisor resigns following public squabble

A heated exchange at the Jan. 26 meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees has apparently prompted the resignation of Deputy Supervisor Kenneth Bednark.

During a study session of the board members just prior to their regular meeting, Trustee Peggy Morgan criticized the failure of Police Chief Eric Luke to return a phone call from Bednark. The call was, according to Morgan, an effort to discuss Luke's upcoming contract renewal. She asked why there was this "lack of communication."

Luke, in attendance at the Zoom meeting, responded that the "phone call" was a voice message he had received late in the afternoon the day before and that scheduled meetings on Tuesday, along with some unexpected personnel issues, kept him from returning the voice mail from Bednark. He said the voice mail message informed him that Supervisor Tim Bowman had instructed Bednark to call and tell him that discussion of his soon-to-expire employment contract would be removed from the meeting agenda.

"I saw no immediacy in the message," Luke said.

Trustee Matt Oddy asked Bowman, "Did you have your deputy tell the chief the item was to be removed?" Bowman responded casually that he had no recognition of doing so and moved on to the next item for discussion.

> *I'm a full-grown man. I can do it on my own. I am perfectly capable of doing this on my own, Kenny.*

During discussion at the following regular meeting of the board, Bednark took the opportunity to chastise his boss about that exchange. He said that in the two months he had been the deputy supervisor he had repeatedly had to compel Bowman to respond to his emails. He reminded Bowman that he had been a full-time deputy until "this board cut your legs off."

"We did discuss this (Luke's contract). I'm covering your back. If you're not happy with my service, just let me know," he said.

Bowman responded that he, too, had only been in office for two months and was attempting to acclimate himself to municipal government but obviously took offense at Bednark's comments and tone.

"I'm a full-grown man. I can do it on my own. I am perfectly capable of doing this on my own, Kenny," he said. "I want to get along and do my job and do my best for the community."

Bednark responded that he had a 45-minute conversation with Bowman on Friday and that there were items in Luke's contract that Bowman needed to be aware of.

"I am quite confident we discussed this," he said. "The onus is on you sir, not only on me."

That exchange, and a subsequent discussion between Bowman and Bednark, apparently prompted Bednark to submit a letter of resignation, effective Feb. 10.

Sumpter trustees approve settlement of pay rate dispute

Members of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees unanimously agreed to a one-time $500 payment to Deputy Treasurer Kenneth Bednark along with a month of a back wages at a higher hourly amount.

The unanimous vote came after a protracted discussion of the situation at the Jan. 26 meeting. The topic was prompted by Trustee Peggy Morgan who also raised the issue at the Jan. 12 meeting, suggesting Bednark be compensated at the higher rate paid to the previous deputy supervisor. At that time, the question of authority to set township employee wages was referred to township attorney Rob Young for research.

Young presented his preliminary findings but told the board members last week that his research left him needing direction from the board as to their intent when they voted on the issue Dec. 15. At that meeting, the board reduced Bednark's position to part time without benefits at a reduced hourly rate.

Young explained that the board of trustees has the authority to set the wages for township employees. He explained, however, that a deputy official is responsible only for performing the statutory duties of the person appointing the deputy, and nothing more. If the board intended the deputy, in this case Bednark, to perform additional or other duties, then other laws such as minimum wage and benefits would come into play.

> *We had a review. The board already passed a resolution, so we can move on. If this was paid in error, we should get the money back.*

"I need direction from you as to what your intent on Dec. 15 was," he told the board.

Supervisor Tim Bowman explained that when he hired Bednark as his deputy, he assumed it would be at the same rate as the previous deputy supervisor. "I was not asking him to do anything more that my statutory duties," he said.

During the meeting, Young repeatedly acknowledged, as did the trustees, that there was no inference that Bowman had any ulterior motive in the appointment of Bednark and that he had acted on incomplete information.

Morgan repeatedly suggested that the board pay Bednark at the previous deputy supervisor's rate and stop withholding what had been determined as an overpayment from his checks. She reiterated several times that Bednark had not been paid "the money he had earned."

Trustee Matt Oddy reminded Morgan and the board that the trustees had previously agreed that if it had been determined that the supervisor had the authority to set the hourly wage rate, the township would not take the money back from Bednark as a reimbursement for the overpayment.

"We had a review. The board already passed a resolution, so we can move on. If this was paid in error, we should get the money back. We dealt with this at the last meeting," Oddy said.

Bednark delivered a letter to township officials last week demanding back pay, interest, insurance, sick and vacation time accrued from the date of his swearing in on Nov. 20 until the board set his pay as a part-time deputy supervisor at $8,406 with no benefits Dec. 15.

The discussion continued with Morgan repeatedly insisting that Bednark be paid the amount "authorized by the supervisor." She suggested paying him that hourly rate and then discussing the interest, benefits, insurance and vacation days he was claiming at a future meeting.

Oddy and Trustee Tim Rush were both adamantly opposed to that suggestion saying this issue had simply "dragged on too long." Both said they wanted the issue settled during the meeting. Oddy said, however, it would be difficult to vote on the issue when there was no calculation of the amount presented.

After lengthy discussion, the board members unanimously agreed to pay Bednark the increased hourly rate for the time worked from Nov. 20 until Dec. 15 along with an additional $500 in compensation for his other claims on the condition that this would satisfy all the pay issues.

Supervisor Tim Bowman

Bednark reportedly submitted a letter of resignation last week-effective Feb. 10 following a public dispute with Bowman.

(See related story, above)

GO LESS OFTEN
Plan ahead and shop efficiently.
GO ALONE
Just one shopper whenever possible.
GO 6FT APART
Keeping your distance means lowering risks.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, February 18, 2021 for the following:

DEMOLITION SERVICES

Bids may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: mike.sheppard@canton-mi.org. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK

Publish 02/04/2021

CN2170 - 020421 2.5 x 2.055

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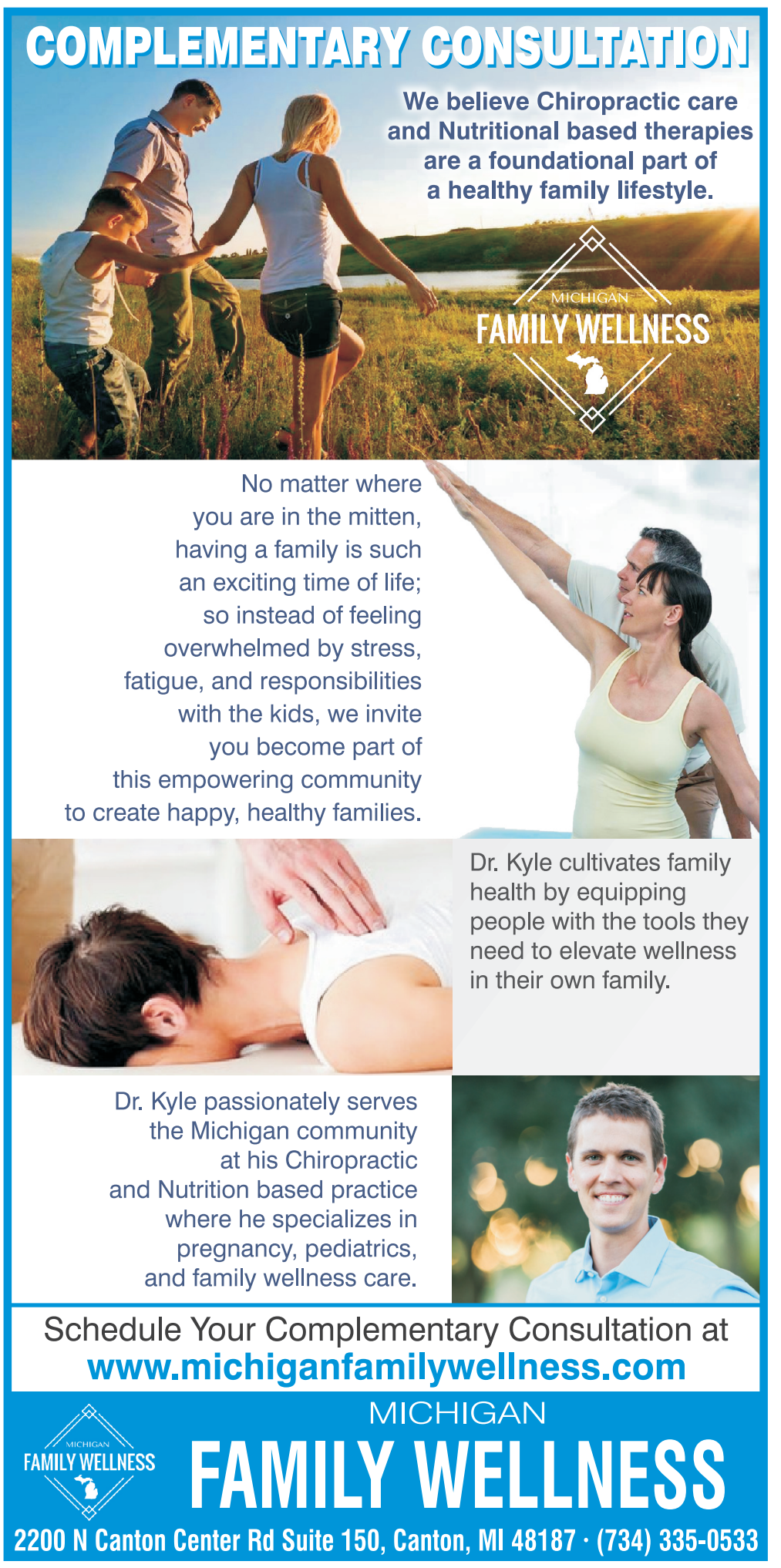
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Northville

One Mind

Northville police officers complete mental health crisis training programs

Police departments in both Northville Township and the City of Northville have taken steps to ensure the most effective response to crisis situations involving substance abuse or mental health issues.

Northville Township Police Chief Paul Tennies said mental illness has become a common focus for law enforcement, with some departments estimating that as many as 20 percent of calls for service are related to mental health incidents. Northville Township responds to several hundred behavioral health incidents a year, Tennies said.

In Northville Township, police department personnel completed the requirements for the One Mind Campaign, an initiative by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), which improves the department response to calls involving those suffering from mental illness in the community.

Northville Township is the only police department in Wayne County to receive this special designation and the sixth in Michigan to earn the designation and completed the training in 24 months.

Northville also helped launch the Mobile Crisis Co-Response Program last year with Hegira Health Inc. of Livonia. This community resource pairs law enforcement officers and mental health professionals to assist individuals in crisis. When an officer responds to a situation with a person exhibiting behavioral needs, mental health experts from Hegira help officers deliver intervention and stabilization resources to the person in need. It also provides an enhanced level of service to the community and is now a model for neighboring communities, officials said.

Northville Township Community Service Ofc. Andrew Domzalski was recently named 2020 Officer of the Year by the Detroit-Wayne County Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). Domzalski trains first responders across Michigan how to interact with individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.

"We wanted to be proactive and the One Mind initiative fell in line with our organization's goal to enhance positive outcomes on our behavioral response calls," Tennies said. "We are honored to be a part of this important program."

Two officers, from a force of 13 in the City of Northville, have also taken formal training effective techniques for intervention in situations where substance abuse or mental health plays a role. Both Wayne County and Oakland County offer 40-hour training for officers that help them identify the cause of incidents, de-escalate the crisis, become effective at crisis resolution, and determine when the perpetrator should be taken to a community-based mental health facility rather than be arrested and taken to jail.

The program also promotes safety of both the officer and the individual in crisis. The Crisis Intervention Team website states that the course helps officers become better equipped to understand common signs and symptoms of mental illnesses and co-occurring disorders; recognize when those signs and symptoms represent a crisis situation; safely de-escalate individuals experiencing behavioral health crises; and use community resources and diversion strategies to provide assistance.

> *This training prepares our officers to identify, de-escalate and provide assistance to those who are in need.*

The programs are community-based - involving police, health care professionals and local organizations. The primary goal is to keep people with mental illness out of jail and in treatment - optimally on the road to recovery. One of those organizations is COPE, like Hegira, which offers a drug rehabilitation program and recovery coaching, among other services.

"Instead of taking them straight to the hospital, where they may not get the comprehensive evaluation they need, programs such as COPE look at the person on a one-to-one basis and find out what issues they are having," said Northville Police Ofc. Melissa Vernon, who completed training in Wayne County.

"A significant percentage of our calls for service involve persons suffering from mental illness or addiction issues," said Northville Police Chief Alan Maciag. "This training prepares our officers to identify, de-escalate and provide assistance to those who are in need. The last thing we want to do is take someone to jail who is in need of treatment. My goal is to have every member of the department trained in crisis intervention."

Northville Ofc. Erin Larkin, who attended the training in Oakland County in 2020, learned how to implement new techniques in the (virtual) classroom through role-playing various scenarios. She was trained to identify visual and verbal cues to assess whether an individual was experiencing a mental health crisis.

The training enabled Vernon to improve her verbal de-escalation skills, she said.

"You go on their level. You could say, 'I see that you're upset. Why are you upset? What can I do to help you?"

In a time of crisis, Larkin recommends that family or friends of an individual with a mental health issue or addiction learn what medication the person took and where they have received treatment in the past. That family member or friend may have to interact with police if the person in crisis is unable to articulate the issue.

Larkin also advises that family or friends leave their contact information in an accessible location at the residence of a troubled person to help police get input from them if needed.

"Important take-aways from the training were the reminder that there may be undiagnosed, untreated individuals that are in need of care," Larkin said. "When that's the case, I can now direct the individuals to resources they may not be aware of."

"As law enforcement leaders, we know that successful interactions between police officers and those affected by mental illness improves public trust, ensures officer safety and saves lives," said Tennies.

For more information about the One Mind Campaign, visit https://www.theiacp.org/projects/one-mind-campaign. A list of all agencies who have taken the pledge is available there.

For those in crisis due to mental health issues, call 1-800-950-NAMI or text NAMI to 741741. The national suicide prevention lifeline is 800-273-8255.

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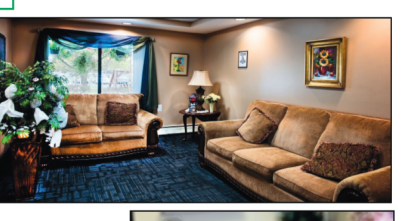

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CLARK, DIMITRIUS
– WAYNE –
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GEDDIS, ALVIN
– WAYNE –
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On Friday, February 12th, 2021 at 8:00 am, Great Lakes Towing Impound and Recovery Division located at 42350 Van Born Rd, Belleville, Mi, County of Wayne, will conduct a public auction of Impounded and Abandoned vehicles. The following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

2003 Chevrolet
1G1JC52F537197438
2008 Chevrolet
1G1ZH57B38F297612

The above vehicles are impounded through the City of Westland Police Department. All paperwork must be picked up from the City of Westland Police Department within 48 hours of the sale.

2016 Volkswagen
3VWD17AJ6GM301679
2015 Volkswagen
1VWAT7A30FC040998
2009 Hyundai
5NPET46C89H509369

The above vehicles are impounded through the City of Dearborn Police Department. All paperwork must be picked up from the City of Dearborn Police Department within 48 hours of the sale.

2018 Jeep
3C4NJDCB9JT342722

The above vehicles are impounded through the Taylor Police Department. All paperwork must be picked up from the Taylor Police Department within 48 hours of the sale.

All Vehicles are sold in "as is condition". Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction. This is a cash only sale and all vehicles must be paid in full at the conclusion of the auction.

Copart has vehicles up for public auction Tuesday 2/2/21 at 10 AM at www.copart.com:

2006 FORD
3FAFP07Z46R220301
2003 FORD
2FMZA52463BA18289
1993 NUWA
1NW32SR06PC050929
2007 MITS
JA4MS31X77U002690
2018 JAGU
SADCJ2FX6JA277746
2004 CHEV
2G1WF52E649189255
2011 CHEV
1G1PF5S91B7138106
2009 DODG
2D8HN44E19R664054
2005 PONT
5Y2SL63835Z421265
2011 FORD
1FAHP3HN2BW177557
2009 CHEV
2G1WT57K691327308
2004 CHRY
1C3EL55R14N133235
2007 BMW
WBAWB73577P032026

THE FOLLOWING CARS HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDONED BY THE INKSTER POLICE DEPT. AND WILL BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC AUCTION AT BISHOP AUTO WRECKING LLC AT 2780 SPRINGHILL INKSTER, MI 48141 ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2021 AT 10AM.

2004 MERCURY
(1MEHM50U44A622333)
2008 CHEVROLET
(KL1TD66628B034156)
2018 CHEVROLET
(2GNAXJEV9J6174613)
2009 FORD
(3FAHP07Z69R180610)
2010 MERCURY
(4M2CN8HG9AKJ27697)
2006 CADILLAC
(1G6DM57T960130292)
2006 DODGE
(1D4HB38N86F162899)

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1B3HB48B98D503932
2002 CHEVROLET S10
1GCDT13W62K240420
2000 FORD ECONOLINE
1FTRE1425YHB56834
1990 LINCOLN TOWN CAR
1LNCM81F7LY830799

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2000 CHEVROLET
1GCEK19V4YE430987
1998 CADILLAC
1G6KD54Y1WU802796
2003 CADILLAC
1G6DM57N130164224
2006 CHEVROLET
3GNDA23P26S650962
2012 DODGE
1C3CDZAB2CN328263
2004 CHEVROLET
2G1WF52E649261202
2005 GMC
1GKFK16Z85J133594
2008 HYUNDAI
KMHDU46D78U365606
2004 BUICK
1G4HR54K644146348
2005 FORD
1FMYU941X5KC81147

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WESTLAND

City Holiday Taste Fest plans already under way

Julie Brown
Special Writer

> "Our members and the whole community are eager to get out and socialize safely. We look forward to everyone joining us."

The 2021 Westland Holiday Taste Fest is being planned for 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road in Westland.

While the 2020 event was canceled due to the pandemic, the event this December will be even more special, organizers said. Sponsorships are available at the Platinum ($1,000), Gold ($500) and Silver ($250) levels, with information available from the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

"We're trying to bring back the annual tradition of the Holiday Taste Fest," said Gretchen Heinicke, Westland Chamber of Commerce president. "We know that it's a ways away. It's something for people to look forward to as we go through 2021."

She agreed "our members and the whole community" are "eager to get out and socialize safely. We look forward to everyone joining us ... and bringing back holiday cheer" at the Taste Fest.

Admission to the Holiday Taste Fest is $25, including food and entertainment, with a cash bar. Call the Westland Chamber of Commerce at (734) 326-7222 for more information or visit www.westlandchamber.com.

Proceeds go to Westland Rotary charities and to the Westland Chamber of Commerce. Donors who bring new or gently used children's boots, hats or gloves will be entered in a raffle to win a $100 gift card.

The $25 admission price includes treats and holiday displays from area fine restaurants and culinary artists; music of the Marsha Gayle Band; a live auction and raffles, including the "Bucket of Cheer" raffle (assortment of liquor bottles), and masters of ceremonies RC DJ Video Productions Ralph and Kim Cabildo.

Westland council approves reappointments to city boards

Members of the Westland City Council confirmed the reappointment of two city board members during a Jan. 19 meeting.

Westland Mayor William R. Wild reappointed long-time city resident Gayle Nicholson to the Library Board.

> "Westland Mayor William R. Wild reappointed long-time city resident Gayle Nicholson to the Library Board."

Her appointment was for a five-year term expiring Feb. 6, 2026. Nicholson is an active community volunteer with an extensive background in customer service and marketing.

The five-member Library Board is appointed by the mayor and confirmed by city council. The board oversees the library director and the operations of the William P. Faust Public Library.

Meetings take place at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the Library Community Meeting Room, located at 6123 Central City Parkway

Wild also reappointed Delano Hornbuckle to the city Planning Commission. Hornbuckle has served on the city Parks and Recreation Advisory Board since November 2019 and the Municipal Service Bureau (MSB) since January 2019. He is a Network Security Engineer and works in a customer focused, multi-site environment.

The Planning Commission is governed by a nine-member board appointed by the mayor and subject to confirmation of city council. Members serve three-year terms and must reside, work or have ownership interest in property in the City of Westland.

The Planning Commission reviews and recommends to city council all applications for amendments to the Zoning Ordinance or zoning map, applications for special land uses, site plan approvals and planned unit developments. Meetings are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month at City Hall, 36300 Warren Road.

Gayle Nicholson

Delano Hornbuckle

Inkster woman is charged with birthday party stabbing

A Westland woman is facing two felony charges in the stabbing of her uncle at a family gathering in Riverview.

Ariel Purifoy, 20, has been charged with one count of felonious assault, a four-year felony and one count of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, a 10-year felony in the stabbing of her 27-year-old uncle Jan. 9.

According to police reports, officers were called to a house in the 15000 block of Golfview at about 7 p.m. Jan. 9 in response to a report of a man stabbed. When officers arrived, they discovered the Riverview man with a non-life threatening stab wound to his left shoulder. Initial witness interviews indicated that a dispute arose among several people including the victim and his niece during a birthday party. She was immediately taken into custody. Officers also cited a 45-year-old and 24-year-old, both Westland residents, for misdemeanor assault and battery related to their actions during the incident. Both were released at the scene, according to police reports.

Both the victim and Purifoy were treated at the scene for minor injuries by Riverivew Fire Department personnel. Purifoy was arraigned on the charges Jan. 11 in 27th District Court.

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Inkster - Romulus - Wayne

Romulus church to host 13-week grief seminars

Community members who have experienced the death of a family member or friend can now register for a 13-week seminar/support group GriefShare at 5 Points Church. The church, located at 37300 Goddard Road at Huron River Drive in Romulus, has been offering this program since 2005. .

"Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Past participant have related how helpful the information and follow-up discussions were to them," organizers said.

The bereavement experience may be recent or current and participants will find "find encouragement, comfort, and help in grieving the death of a loved one no matter what the cause of death. This is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling," they added.

This nondenominational program features Christ-centered, biblical teaching that focuses on grief topics. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was seen on the DVD.

GriefShare will be take place beginning at 6 p.m. every Thursday starting Feb. 18 and continuing through May 13 with different DVDs each meeting. Registration is $15 which includes a workbook and weekly handouts.

There will be social distancing and masks are required.

More information is available at www.griefshare.org.

Inkster church plans brick memorial for COVID deaths

An Inkster church is planning a permanent memorial to those lives lost due to the coronavirus.

The Prevailing Church in Inkster, under the leadership of the Rev. Rick Sykes, is constructing a memorial brick walkway along the side of the church and each brick will be inscribed with the name of a person lost to the COVID-19 virus.

Sykes said the church currently has about 2,000 bricks.

"I myself know about 50 to 60 people who have passed away. My wife was actually sick in March and she recovered. Loved ones, people I knew, also recovered but there are those who passed away from COVID-19," he said.

The pandemic has adversely affected the Black and Hispanic community, according to statistics and deaths among those ethnicities are much more prevalent, according to Dr. Joneigh S. Khaldun, MD, MPH, FACEP, the chief medical executive for the State of Michigan and Chief Deputy Director for Health in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Khaldun has urged members of the Black community to seek a vaccination against the disease as soon as they become available to them.

Sykes said the memorial at the church is a means of trying to heal the community.

"We're looking to bless the community by giving to the community," he said. "Just thinking about all of the people I know who have passed away...we wanted to do something that brings healing."

To inquire about dedicating a brick to a loved one, or to donate to the church, contact Sykes at theprevailingchurchmi@gmail.com.

Lawsuit

FROM PAGE 1

Sanders in the civil suit.

Chandler is also named as a defendant in Nocerini's lawsuit which cites an ongoing dispute between her and Sanders as the motive for the false police report. She claims that Sanders tried to impugn her reputation and have her fired from her job by falsifying emails portraying her as homophobic and that his allegations of misconduct prompted an outside investigation of her professional performance including allegations of a hostile work environment.

That confidential report dated Aug. 8, 2018 was briefly posted on social media and included interviews with 17 employees by the independent investigator. He cited multiple and serious problems with Nocerini's management and administration at city hall. In his report, the investigator said he found staff members fearful of recriminations and who were subjected to ongoing and overt discriminatory treatment. The investigator advised the city that this was a basis for serious concern as the employees believed they worked in an atmosphere where the city manager and one councilman, at that time a candidate for mayor, were aligned so strongly that employees and department heads had no recourse for equitable treatment.

In her lawsuit, however, filed by attorney Scott Ruark, Nocerini claims that she was "cleared of any wrongdoing" by the independent report. She also states that the report concluded there was no hostile working environment and that the investigation was "unethical, slanderous and resulted in Plaintiff suffering severe emotional distress."

She further claims that Sanders interfered with her "existing and prospective economic and business relationships and expectancies" and that as a result of his conduct she has incurred damages in excess of $25,000.

Cahalan said that Sanders vehemently denies all the allegations in the criminal complaint and has demanded a jury trial in which his innocence will be clearly established.

Christopher Sanders

Wayne HYPE center offers cost-free virus testing

Testing for COVID-19 is now available to the public in both Wayne and Westland.

The cities have cooperated with Wayne County to provide the testing sites in an effort to reach the goal of 8,000 tests each day.

In Wayne, the cost-free testing with reportedly shorter waiting times is open at the HYPE Recreation Center from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturdays. The athletic center is located at 4635 Howe Road in Wayne.

In Westland, testing will take place in the parking lot at the Westland Friendship Center, located at 1119 Newburgh Road. Residents will have no out of pocket expenses for testing. However, if insurance information is available, it will be collected for the laboratory testing fees. There is no pre-registration or appointment needed, officials said. Minors must be accompanied by a parents or guardian and patients can expect to receive their results within 2-3 days, which will be shared via email, phone call or text message. The Westland COVID-19 testing is open from 9 a.m.until7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. unto 3 p.m. on Saturday.

> *Individuals who may be experiencing COVID-19 symptoms are encouraged to get tested and quarantine until test results are received.*

Health professionals advised individuals not to take any fever reducing medications prior to testing. When arriving at the drive thru clinic, individuals should have a form of identification ready. Visitors are asked that they leave their car windows up until asked to lower them.

In Wayne, both drive-through and inside testing is available. Individuals older than 5 are eligible to be tested, but must be accompanied by an adult. There is no doctor's order or pre-registration necessary. As in Westland, there is no cost but if insurance information is available, it will be collected.

"With the uptick in COVID-19 cases so close to the holidays, our public health teams have stepped up its effort to offer more testing opportunities to keep families safe," said Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans.

Individuals who may be experiencing COVID-19 symptoms are encouraged to get tested and quarantine until test results are received. Symptoms can develop up to 14 days after exposure to the virus, health professionals said.

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